

REMARKS

The Board's Decision of March 5, 2007, has been received and reviewed.

The final rejections of claims 17-21, 23-27, and 30-34 have been affirmed.

Claims 22, 28, and 29 are directed to allowable subject matter.

Reconsideration of the above-referenced application is respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

The indication that claims 22, 28, and 29 are drawn to allowable subject matter is noted with appreciation.

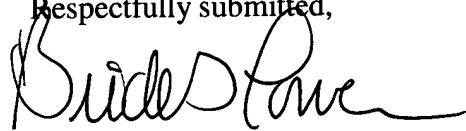
The limitations of claims 22 and 21 have been incorporated into independent claim 17, placing that claim in condition for allowance. Claims 21 and 22 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

The limitations of prior claims 17 and 28 have been combined in new independent claim 70, from which claims 71-81 depend. New independent claim 82 includes the limitations of prior claims 17 and 29. New claims 83-98 depend from new independent claim 82. It is respectfully submitted that none of new claims 82-98 introduces new matter into the above-referenced application.

CONCLUSION

It is respectfully submitted that each of claims 17-20, 23-34, and 82-98 is allowable. An early notice of the allowability of each of these claims is respectfully solicited, as is an indication that the above-referenced application has been passed for issuance. If any issues preventing allowance of the above-referenced application remain which might be resolved by way of a telephone conference, the Office is kindly invited to contact the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



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